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Legislative Bulletin.....April 29, 2009

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S. 735—Protecting Incentives for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs Act of 2009

S. 735 – Protecting Incentives for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs Act of 2009 (*Baucus, D-MT*)

Order of Business: S. 735 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 735 repeals a provision in the FY 2009 omnibus that requires the Secretary of HHS to make adoption incentive payments to states for the current fiscal year in the same manner as these payments were made in FY 2008.

The intent of this legislation is to allow the higher payments made available by the [Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008](#) (P.L. 110-351), which increased from \$4,000 to \$8,000 the incentive amounts states may earn for each increase in the number of older children adopted from foster care. That legislation also doubled (from \$2,000 to \$4,000) the incentive payments available for children with special needs under age nine who are adopted from foster care.

Committee Action: S. 735 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 3, 2009. On April 21, 2009, the legislation was received in the House and referred to the Ways and Means Committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO score is available citing compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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